

# House File 592 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 592  
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 184)

## A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the statewide preschool program by modifying  
2 provisions relating to eligibility, funding, and compulsory  
3 attendance and including applicability provisions.  
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 135.173A, subsection 4, paragraph p,  
2 Code 2019, is amended to read as follows:

3 *p.* One person who is part of a local program implementing  
4 the statewide preschool program for ~~four-year-old~~ young  
5 children under chapter 256C.

6 Sec. 2. Section 135.173A, subsection 6, paragraph f, Code  
7 2019, is amended to read as follows:

8 *f.* Make recommendations for improving collaborations  
9 between the child care programs involving the department of  
10 human services and programs supporting the education and  
11 development of young children including but not limited to the  
12 federal head start program; the statewide preschool program  
13 for ~~four-year-old~~ young children; and the early childhood,  
14 at-risk, and other early education programs administered by the  
15 department of education.

16 Sec. 3. Section 256C.1, subsections 1 and 4, Code 2019, are  
17 amended to read as follows:

18 1. "*Approved local program*" means a school district's  
19 program for ~~four-year-old~~ young children approved by the  
20 department of education to provide high quality preschool  
21 instruction.

22 4. "*Preschool program*" means the statewide preschool program  
23 for ~~four-year-old~~ young children created in accordance with  
24 this chapter.

25 Sec. 4. Section 256C.1, Code 2019, is amended by adding the  
26 following new subsection:

27 NEW SUBSECTION. 7. "*Young children*" means children who are  
28 four years of age or who are five years of age.

29 Sec. 5. Section 256C.2, Code 2019, is amended to read as  
30 follows:

31 **256C.2 Statewide preschool program for ~~four-year-old~~ young**  
32 **children — purpose.**

33 1. A statewide preschool program for ~~four-year-old~~ young  
34 children is established. The purpose of the preschool program  
35 is to provide an opportunity for all young children in the

1 state to enter school ready to learn by expanding voluntary  
2 access to quality preschool curricula for all children who are  
3 four years old or who are five years old.

4 2. The state board shall adopt rules in accordance with  
5 chapter 17A as necessary to implement the preschool program as  
6 provided in [this chapter](#).

7 Sec. 6. Section 256C.3, subsection 1, paragraphs a and b,  
8 Code 2019, are amended to read as follows:

9 a. A child who is a resident of Iowa and who is either  
10 four years of age on or before September 15 of a school year  
11 or who is five years of age shall be eligible to enroll in  
12 the preschool program under [this chapter](#). If such a child is  
13 enrolled under [this chapter](#), the child shall be considered to  
14 be of compulsory attendance age as provided in section 299.1A,  
15 subsection 3.

16 b. If space and funding are available, including funding  
17 from another school district account or fund from which  
18 preschool program expenditures are authorized by law, a school  
19 district approved to participate in the preschool program may  
20 enroll and pay the cost of attendance for a child younger than  
21 four years of age or older ~~child in the preschool program than~~  
22 five years of age; however, the child shall not be counted for  
23 state funding purposes.

24 Sec. 7. Section 256C.3, subsection 4, paragraph b, Code  
25 2019, is amended to read as follows:

26 b. Subject to implementation of [chapter 28E](#) agreements  
27 between a school district and community-based providers of  
28 services to four-year-old children and five-year-old children,  
29 a four-year-old child or five-year-old child who is enrolled  
30 in a child care center or child development home licensed or  
31 registered under [chapter 237A](#), or in an existing public or  
32 private preschool program, shall be eligible for services  
33 provided by the school district's local preschool program.

34 Sec. 8. Section 256C.4, subsection 2, Code 2019, is amended  
35 to read as follows:

1     2. *Eligible student enrollment.*

2     a. To be included as an eligible student in the enrollment  
3 count of the preschool programming provided by a school  
4 district approved to participate in the preschool program, a  
5 child must be four years of age ~~by September 15~~ or be five years  
6 of age in the base year and attending the school district's  
7 approved local program.

8     b. The enrollment count of eligible students shall not  
9 include a child who is included in the enrollment count  
10 determined under [section 257.6](#) or a child who is served by  
11 a program already receiving state or federal funds for the  
12 purpose of the provision of four-year-old or five-year-old  
13 preschool programming while the child is being served by the  
14 program. Such preschool programming includes but is not  
15 limited to child development assistance programs provided under  
16 chapter 256A, special education programs provided under section  
17 256B.9, school ready children grant programs and other programs  
18 provided under [chapter 256I](#), and federal head start programs  
19 and the services funded by Tit. I of the federal Elementary and  
20 Secondary Education Act of 1965.

21     Sec. 9. Section 298A.2, subsection 2, paragraph a,  
22 subparagraph (1), Code 2019, is amended to read as follows:

23     (1) An approved local program under the statewide preschool  
24 program for ~~four-year-old~~ young children under [chapter 256C](#).

25     Sec. 10. Section 298A.2, subsection 2, paragraph c,  
26 subparagraph (1), Code 2019, is amended to read as follows:

27     (1) Start-up costs for an approved local program under the  
28 statewide preschool program for ~~four-year-old~~ young children  
29 under [chapter 256C](#).

30     Sec. 11. Section 299.1A, subsection 3, Code 2019, is amended  
31 to read as follows:

32     3. A child who has reached the age of four ~~by September 15~~  
33 or five and who is enrolled in the statewide preschool program  
34 under [chapter 256C](#) shall be considered to be of compulsory  
35 attendance age unless the parent or guardian of the child

1 submits written notice to the school district implementing the  
2 program of the parent's or guardian's intent to remove the  
3 child from enrollment in the preschool program.

4     Sec. 12. APPLICABILITY. This Act applies to school budget  
5 years beginning on or after July 1, 2020.

6                                   EXPLANATION

7             The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
8             the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

9     The statewide preschool program for four-year-old children  
10 under Code chapter 256C provides that a child who is a resident  
11 of Iowa and is four years of age on or before September 15 of  
12 a school year shall be eligible to enroll in the preschool  
13 program. Additionally, to be included as an eligible student  
14 in the enrollment count of the preschool programming for  
15 state funding purposes, a child must be four years of age  
16 by September 15 in the base year and attending the school  
17 district's approved local program.

18     This bill expands the eligibility and state funding  
19 provisions of the statewide preschool program for four-year-old  
20 children under Code chapter 256C to also include five-year-old  
21 children and removes the statutory September 15 eligibility  
22 date.

23     References to four-year-old children in the program named in  
24 Code chapter 256C and in related Code provisions are changed  
25 to "young children" or expanded to also refer to five-year-old  
26 children and Code section 299.1A relating to compulsory  
27 education is also modified to reflect changes made in the bill.

28     The bill applies to school budget years beginning on or after  
29 July 1, 2020.